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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 376th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 24 June 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Statement by the Chairman
- Organization of work
- Spin-off benefits of space technology: Review of current status
- Organization of work

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Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

92-60851 9130V (E)

(The Chairman)

to bear in mind honestly all concerns, so far as he could, that the text is certainly the maximum.

On the other hand, the text is also the minimum, in so far as I tried to create a minimum common denominator at the present stage. I made it perfectly clear to all representatives yesterday that the NPS issue was an ongoing exercise. It is strongly influenced by developing technology. New technologies may require new safety guidelines and may result in new developments in energy sources. Therefore, I stressed, and I again stress, the dynamic character of the NPS issue. This was also done by many delegations, including the delegation of France, which made the point very clearly.

However, I should like to make it equally clear that if the Committee is a "wait-and-see" body, which simply observes developing technologies without taking stock at a certain point, it will decisively weaken its own capacities as a reflection of the concern of the international community to deal with great dangers to us all. The matter is not only of concern to the industrialized countries. It very much concerns the developing countries, the so-called third world, as was clearly expressed by many delegations - Mexico, Egypt, Chile, Ecuador and others.

(The Chairman)

Having said that, I should also like to draw attention to the seriousness of the present moment. Having dealt with outer-space affairs for over 8 years, I am not dramatizing or exaggerating when I say this. At this juncture I shall confine myself to making the most urgent appeal to all delegations here to look upon this effort as a very serious undertaking, one that, as I said yesterday, causes pain, but one that, in my view, also creates a solid and feasible basis for consensus. As our Brazilian colleague stated yesterday morning, and as the Rapporteur reiterated in his clear statement in the afternoon, we all know what consensus means: It means equally shared frustration and equally shared dissatisfaction, but it is also an expression of a participating delegation's sense of responsibility.

The Chairman cannot replace the members of the Committee; the Chairman can only try to contribute to the negotiating process. He cannot impose his will. I want to be perfectly clear: this is a contribution on my part. It is my best - and at the same time most difficult - contribution, for, without exaggeration, I can tell you that arriving at this text has cost me some sleepless nights, since I wanted to make my task as difficult, and not as easy, as possible. Now, however, we have reached a point at which I think the Committee has to act. Some delegations may have very legitimate concerns, and I am the first to understand them, for I never went so deeply into this issue as I did during the past two weeks.

On the other hand, however, at this important moment I urge all delegations to show a sense of responsibility - which means studying the text very carefully and then seeking to receive instructions on it. There will be time. I am not going to take the issue up now. Delegations will have an opportunity to study the text, and I will take the issue up when we begin our

(The Chairman)

consideration of the report on the work of the Legal Subcommittee. That may be sometime tomorrow, but that will depend on the speed of our work with regard to the adoption of our draft report. I shall, however, take up the part of the draft report dealing with the work of the Legal Subcommittee, which relates to the matter at hand, at the very latest stage so that delegations will have sufficient opportunity to receive instructions, if necessary.

From the procedural point of view, therefore, my proposal is a simple one: In the case where delegations are prepared to join a consensus, the Committee would recommend this set of draft principles for adoption at the next session of the General Assembly. That means that at the next session, when discussions begin in the Special Political Committee, which is the main United Nations body to deal with outer-space affairs, my country's delegation will introduce a draft resolution that should be adopted by consensus. Of course I am not speaking now on behalf of the Austrian delegation, because it is already represented here. I am, rather, attempting to clarify the procedural question - which is not very complicated - by saying that my delegation would only submit such a draft resolution if consensus were possible.

On the other hand, it is equally important to understand that if delegations do not agree on the present proposal there will be no recommendation to the General Assembly. In other words, the Chairman's text will simply be attached to the report, as has been done many times since the United Nations inception in 1945, and nothing more. It would equally mean, however, that the Legal Subcommittee would then have to take up the matter again and reopen it completely, and I fear - and this is not a threat, but only a prognostic, a very pessimistic prognostic - that at such a moment, as

(The Chairman)

many delegations - Mexico, Chile, Egypt, the Asian countries and many others - have stated, all those countries that may be prepared now to sacrifice their own very important and legitimate concerns would also reopen the question. I could not deny those delegations that right, for they have that right to do so.

So I should like to ask a rhetorical question: What is the Legal Subcommittee going to do then? Is it possible that it might discuss the matter for the next 15 years? I do not want to sound too pessimistic, but delegations must be aware - and the point was made here yesterday - that there is no partial agreement possible. We cannot agree now on parts of the set of draft principles and leave it to the Legal Subcommittee to reopen other parts. Only a package solution, one that is painful but one that is sensible and down to earth, like a photograph of the status praesens, can help us at this time.

However, the set of draft principles contains a dynamic element, namely, the revision clause. That means that we have the opportunity to reconvene when necessary in the appropriate body - in this case the Legal Subcommittee - for a careful review of problems in the light of new technological developments, new requirements with regard to safety standards, new energy sources and other matters. I must therefore say that I do not share the concerns of those delegations - and I am not singling any one out - to the effect that at this stage the draft principles cannot adjust to technological developments. I think, as I said yesterday in informal consultations, that it would be absurd to continue to deliberate the question of new technological developments in negotiating the draft principles, taking into account all the concerns of many delegations, at a time we could be undertaking the first review.

(The Chairman)

This is a very important point, and I would urge all delegations to be aware of it. There is a very important and dynamic element in the text that, in my opinion, allows all delegations to reserve positions with regard to the future without falling back on a "wait-and-see" position. In my opinion, the Committee is too important to fall back on such a position.

(The Chairman)

If we fail in this exercise, we shall have failed to show the sense of responsibility expected of all of us. I think it is premature to ask members to react now on this text; everyone should have the opportunity to study the text carefully.

I shall now conclude my introductory remarks on this matter. I think I have clarified all points with respect to the text. Members can study it carefully. The new numbering is already in place: Principle 2 corresponds to the original Principle 1A; the original Principle 12 is now Principle 11 because we brought it into the appropriate numerical order. There should be no misunderstanding, if the text is compared with the original numerical order which has been developed over the years.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to the consideration of agenda item 10, after which we shall begin consideration of agenda item 11. It is my intention this afternoon to conclude consideration of agenda item 11 and to begin consideration of agenda item 12.

SPIN-OFF BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS

Mr. SAHADE (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The Argentine delegation would like to make a few comments on agenda item 10, "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status". It is clear that space activities began and grew thanks to the scientific and technological training of those people involved in the early stage and later development of these activities and thanks to the economic resources made available for that purpose.

Space activities are natural to intelligent man, but they require very large investments. Hence, those countries or groups of countries that are more important from the economic standpoint are the ones that have gone the

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

farthest in this eternal quest for answers to questions about our universe and about the possibilities offered by an area such as outer space for research on materials, biology and so many other fields; and the commercial aspects of such activities are already commonplace. That is why the gap between industrialized and non-industrialized countries has become increasingly wide. Some benefits, of course, do reach the countries that are lagging in technological development. But these countries want to go beyond their status as mere consumers of space products and services; they want, in some way, to be protaganists in this space era in which we are living.

The Argentine delegation believes that this would be possible by encouraging cooperation and complementarity among countries at different levels so that qualified personnel from less technologically developed countries could participate in a given project from the beginning and so that the implementation of part of a project could be carried out outside the conventional framework, making use of existing comparative advantages. The United Nations could analyse these or other possibilities and find a way of translating them into practice.

Since any cooperative project of complementarity or participation presupposes some level of transfer of technology, the beginning may perhaps be modest, but little by little we would get used to working together and set aside any reluctance; and this would certainly be very useful to both sides since different surroundings create different approaches to problem solving. This is an idealistic view, but the space era requires a change of mentality and, in fact, the world is changing, although not at the same pace in all fields.

(Mr. Sahade, Argentina)

These ideas and others have been included in the working paper submitted by a number of delegations, including my own, in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.182 in the framework of the so-called new agenda item which we have started to consider substantively at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

I should like to conclude by suggesting that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space consider a way of implementing the ideas we have put forward, inter alia, through instruments established in the United Nations, such as the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Programme on Space Applications, which are doing so much in this regard. Of course, the Argentine delegation is ready to participate and to contribute in the analysis of this issue in the Committee.

Mr. HODGKINS (United States of America): As members are aware, there are significant secondary benefits which have resulted from the exploration of outer space. In the United States, as well as in other countries, these secondary applications and uses have a discernible economic impact - nationally as well as internationally - through the development of new and improved commercial products and processes.

Multiple copies of the most recent issue of Spin-Offs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States (NASA) are available in the back of the Conference Room for the information of members of the Committee.

I would now like to mention briefly a few of the more than 50 examples contained in our Spin-Offs publication. The following are especially pertinent primarily because they address three concerns of truly global interest.

(Mr. Hodgkins, United States)

In the area of food safety, research aimed at providing uncontaminated food to astronauts on manned space missions has yielded a unique quality control process which guarantees an uncontaminated final food product. The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) concept, developed by the Pillsbury Company, is designed to prevent food safety problems rather than to catch them after they have occurred. With this system, food producers can control any area in the food system that could contribute to hazards, whether it involves contaminants, bacteria, physical objects, chemicals, raw materials or storage conditions.

Again, in the area of food and health, NASA silver-ion technology developed to purify water aboard the space shuttle orbiters was used as a departure point to create a home water softener system. This system, developed by General Ionics, softens treated water but also inhibits the growth of bacteria within the filtering unit.

As a final example, the Phoenix Refrigeration Systems, Inc. successfully adapted NASA technology used to control the temperature of sensitive space electronic systems to refrigeration and air-conditioning systems. The heat pipes used in the Phoenix systems are of great interest because of their efficiency and significant energy savings.

We believe that this sampling of United States space spin-offs clearly demonstrates the kind of benefits space activity can bring home to us on Earth.

Mrs. ARISTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) (interpretation from Russian): The questions under discussion at the current session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are of great significance, not only from a scientific, technical or legal point of view, for, in my opinion, it is precisely its work that highlights the role of the United Nations as the world's machinery for combining the efforts of Member States in their interaction in such a universal category as outer space.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is actively involved in work on research and study of outer space for peaceful purposes. To implement State policy in the area of research and use of outer space, in September 1991 the Space Research Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan was set up, and the Institute for Space Research within the system of the Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan was opened. It is well known that the Baikonur space-vehicle-launching site is located on the ancient land of Kazakhstan, and that for more than 30 years space vehicles have been launched from this site, including some with international crews on board.

I should like to note that, on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and with his participation, on 12 April last year a formal ceremony was held at Baikonur marking the thirtieth anniversary of the flight of Earth's first astronaut, Yuri Gagarin. In its space activities, the Republic of Kazakhstan is guided by the provisions of the agreement between the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) concerning joint activity on research and use of outer space, signed on 30 December 1991 in Minsk, and by the other agreements adopted by members of the CIS cooperation in outer space.

(Mrs. Aristanbekova, Kazakhstan)

On 25 May of this year, the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Russia signed the agreement on the systematization of the use of the Baikonur space-vehicle-launching site, which has already been mentioned here by the Head of the Russian delegation, Mr. Mayorski. The agreement notes, inter alia, that coordination of scientific and production activities on the preparation and implementation of space programmes, and also on the use of space technology for the interests of science and the economy, are to be carried out by the Space Research Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Space Agency. The use and further development of the Baikonur launching site's scientific/technical potential will be implemented by agencies on an agreed-upon basis, taking into account the establishment at the launching site of the State Centre for New and Space Technologies of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Commercial projects at the launching site will be carried out jointly by the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation on an agreed-upon basis.

Kazakhstan aspires to broad international cooperation in research on and use of outer space for peaceful purposes to secure economic and technical benefits for all States. As was stated at a press conference at the United Nations in May by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, these questions were discussed in the course of his recent visit to the United States of America.

I am also gratified to note that on 2 October 1991, during the launch of the joint Kazakh/Soviet/Austrian space crew at Baikonur, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and the Vice-Chancellor of Austria signed an agreement on cooperation, in which the parties expressed their intention to cooperate in the area of space research as well. It is appropriate to note here that

(Mrs. Aristanbekova, Kazakhstan)

during this flight the first Kazakh cosmonaut carried out broad research studies, in keeping with the programme drawn up by the Academy of Scientists of the Republic for Kazakhstan's economy, in the area of space monitoring of the environment.

In drawing up and implementing State policy on space research, we intend to make active use of the international experience acquired in this Committee. We are counting on closer and more fruitful cooperation, both on a bilateral basis and through the United Nations, in resolving political, legal, scientific and technical issues relating to the exploration of space.

Because of its unique geopolitical situation, its economic and scientific/technical potential and its policies in favour of an open-market economy and rapid development, our country has great opportunities to implement its planned in-depth changes, making active use of international experience in scientific/technical cooperation, inter alia, in the areas of space communications, exploration of land resources, and others.

For the first time, the Republic of Kazakhstan is participating as an Observer in this session of the Committee. This is highly symbolic, since this is International Space Year. I should like to express our confidence that our country's participation in the work of such an authoritative body as this United Nations Committee will serve as a good beginning for Kazakhstan's participation in international cooperation in research on and the peaceful use of outer space.

Ms. LOSTY (United Kingdom): It seems appropriate under this item to mention the British Prime Minister's proposal for improved international cooperation in the use of satellite remote sensing for environmental purposes. The initiative was launched at a meeting in London in April of this

(Ms. Losty, United Kingdom)

year. The aim of the initiative is an evolving programme of improved and extended coordination, as well as planning, of Earth observation satellite missions. In particular, the emphasis is on closer involvement of the data users in specifying their requirements and establishing the data systems they need to work towards a truly global space-observing system for the environment.

A first step has been to prepare a unified schedule of Earth-observing satellite missions, both planned and proposed, through the next decade. With regular review and revision, this schedule will become a basic information document for coordinating missions and for informing users of the data resources being established.

The intention of the initiative is not necessarily to expand the intended space programmes, but to improve the value obtained from the considerable sums being invested - in other words, to ensure that users play their part in identifying the measurements needed. Then, when users have identified their requirements, they should have access to the data collected, and obtain what they need in a format that is readily usable.

(Ms. Losty, United Kingdom)

The London Conference at the end of April brought together representatives of both the providers of satellite data and the users of such data. The Conference included a plenary meeting of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) - the data providers - which had prepared a full dossier of planned Earth-observation satellite missions for discussion. A meeting also took place of environment officials - the data users - from countries active in Earth observation for environmental purposes. These included a number of European States, as well as representatives from the United States, Canada, Japan, China, India, Brazil and the Russian Federation. They were joined by representatives from the principal international environmental programmes which use satellite data, and their sponsoring international bodies, including the United Nations Earthwatch programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Council of Scientific Unions, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

Both groups of delegates, the CEOS group and the environment officials, came together to agree the conclusions of the meeting and elements of the initiative. Copies of the agreed paper are available to delegates in the Chamber today, alongside copies of this statement.

The next stage in the initiative was to bring it to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Copies of the conclusions of the London meeting, along with the Earth Observation Satellite Schedule - a summary of planned satellite Earth observation missions - were distributed to all delegates at UNCED. I am pleased to report that the initiative was mentioned in the final Agenda 21 document of UNCED, in the chapter on science for sustainable development.

(Ms. Losty, United Kingdom)

The London meeting also gave particular support and added momentum to developing mechanisms for organizing and expressing the voice of data users on a global basis. Such mechanisms will enable users to define their needs and tackle such issues as access, data networking, information, and education. To this end, an important next step in the initiative is for the users of satellite data to develop and articulate their requirements for presentation at the next plenary meeting of CEOS in December. The role of the United Nations organizations is seen as particularly important in developing the voice of the users of satellite data and in acting as a channel for the needs of developing countries.

In enhancing the role of the users of Earth observation data, the initiative will fully support the United Nations Earthwatch Programme coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme, which systematically brings together information on the state of the world's environment. Furthermore, my delegation believes that International Space Year provides a propitious and appropriate opportunity to work together to help ensure that, through cooperation and coordination, the world's environmental monitoring capabilities and skills are used to the maximum benefit of the environment and in the interests of all countries.

It is the United Kingdom's hope that this initiative will help us all to make the best possible use of Earth observation by satellites for environmental purposes and steadily to increase the practical involvement of environmental interests in all countries. In view of the high-level interest and support shown in the initiative by both Governments and space agencies, the prospects of success are good.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): In the light of the interesting statements that we have heard this morning, my delegation would like to make a few comments that we consider of importance.

I would like to point out first of all that my country, because of specific circumstances surrounding international cooperation in space matters today, attaches particular importance to the agenda item on spin-off benefits of space technology, and we are pleased to see it among the other relevant issues under consideration by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. As I have said, we listened very attentively to the statements made by the representatives of Argentina, Kazakhstan, the United States, and the United Kingdom, who have drawn us a picture that we consider interesting and valuable. In this connection, we have some doubts and some ideas.

First, we have not yet had enough time to study the interesting paper provided by the delegation of the United States, a paper that certainly contains data and elements that may be of benefit to our countries. Furthermore, there were certain proposals, plans and ideas in the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom in which we are very much interested. That we heard a comprehensive statement from the representative of Argentina is nothing new to us.

I wish to comment briefly on this question, not on the technical aspects the representative of Argentina so masterfully described, but on something we consider to be crucial: the link between the item on spin-off benefits of space technology and this same question within the framework of the Legal Subcommittee. Obviously, we can obtain very important information on aspects of space technology which, to be sure, are extraordinarily sophisticated but which are beyond the capacity or real prospect of the vast majority of developing countries to utilize.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

It is therefore clear that this aspect of this agenda item on spin-off benefits of space technology will be hampered by a partial analysis or a distorted vision if it is not correlated to the legal aspect. We have said on many occasions that a legal framework is the only real defence of the developing countries, which have no prospect of gaining access to such extraordinarily sophisticated technology. You put this very well, Mr. Chairman, as it relates to the use of nuclear power sources (NPS), where there is a very dynamic evolution, but that does not erode the need for a set of principles on NPS to be adopted now.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

It is clear that we must have legal frameworks which are both clear and predictable and which place special emphasis on the fact that all countries must have equal opportunity - and that is not just because we are saying so but because the Charter itself says so. In this context, the correlation between the technical and the legal, to which the representative of Argentina referred, is, in our view, clearly understood in the statements of the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and Kazakhstan, and it is important that that correlation should exist.

In this context, there is no doubt that the deliberations at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, which were based on document A/AC.105/C.2/L.182 - which has not been criticized by any delegation - remain of particular importance and relevance in establishing that link.

Mr. HIDAYAT (Indonesia): We have listened carefully to the statements made by the representative of Argentina and, just now, by the representative of Chile, to the effect that the space age requires a change of attitude at the level of the thinking of the people as well as at the Government level. Space activities are long-term endeavours which require substantial funds, and it is for that reason that not every country can immediately afford to undertake or embark on space activities.

Nevertheless, my delegation is happy to report that Indonesia has decided to participate fully in space activities in order to meet the challenge of the next century. The Government believes that space can offer us many fruitful results and, moreover, that space activities, which require high technology characterized by high-precision work, will provide impetus for progress in international cooperation.

(Mr. Hidayat, Indonesia)

The spin-offs from space activities are one aspect from which we can benefit, and which will, it is to be hoped, change the attitude of the people. My delegation is pleased to report that the Government of Indonesia has taken a certain number of steps towards introducing space science to its younger generation so that they can comprehend the position and the environment of the Earth as well as the spirit of international brotherhood.

The CHAIRMAN: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 10.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: It was my intention to take up agenda item 11, "Other matters". But, as no delegation wishes to speak on this item - which I deplore, because I should like to make as much use of available conference facilities, which are, as members are well aware, expensive - I am very reluctantly obliged to adjourn the meeting now. The Committee will reconvene this afternoon, to conclude agenda item 11, and immediately thereafter to begin deliberations on the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 377th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 24 June 1992, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Other matters
- Organization of work

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92-60857 9131V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will conclude this afternoon its consideration of agenda item 11, "Other matters", after which it will begin consideration of agenda item 12, "Report of the Committee to the General Assembly".

Are there any speakers on this item? As there is none, we have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 11.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: As we shall now begin our consideration of agenda item 12, "Report of the Committee to the General Assembly", we shall follow the usual practice and do so in informal consultations, which will take place in closed session. However, as I am usually very generous in my approach, I have nothing against the presence of Observers, but they will have no right to participate in the discussion.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 378th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 26 June 1992, at 12.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Report of the Committee to the General Assembly
- Concluding statements
- Closing statement by the Chairman
- Closure of the session

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92-60863 9138V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: I call upon the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): As members know, the Committee will be working today with the draft report discussed during its informal meetings and with amendments as taken down by delegations. But as we had some time yesterday afternoon, we have been able to compile an informal list setting out amendments to the draft report; this is contained in two informal documents, in English only, circulated solely for the convenience of delegations. Formally, the Committee will be considering the draft report as contained in documents A/AC.105/L.196 and Add.1 to 3.

The CHAIRMAN: Members have before them the draft report of the Committee to the General Assembly, contained in documents A/AC.105/L.196 and Add.1 to 3. We shall now proceed to adopt that report, section by section.

We begin with document A/AC.105/L.196.

We turn first to the Introduction, paragraphs 1 to 17. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 1 to 17 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 18 to 23. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 18 to 23 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196.

We turn now to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.1, dealing with the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraph 1 of that document?

Paragraph 1 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 2 to 10?

Paragraphs 2 to 10 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraph 11. I take it that the Committee adopts that paragraph.

Paragraph 11 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 12 to 14, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 12 to 14 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 15 to 19. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 15 to 19 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 20 to 27. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 20 to 27 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 28 to 35, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 28 to 35 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 36 to 40 bis, which will be renumbered in the final report. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 36 to 40 bis were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 41 to 50. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 41 to 50 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Turning to paragraphs 51 to 56, may I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 51 to 56 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up paragraphs 57 to 67 ter; paragraphs 67 bis and ter were the subject of tentative agreement yesterday and will be renumbered in the final report. Does the Committee wish to adopt those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 57 to 67 ter were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We turn now to paragraphs 68 to 75. I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs.

Paragraphs 68 to 75 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.1.

We turn now to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.2.

(The Chairman)

I wish first to read out the text of a new paragraph 6 bis. That paragraph reads as follows:

"The Committee was able to reach consensus on the basis of the Chairman's text. The consensus text, as approved by the Committee, is attached as annex ___ to this report".

The annex number will be furnished in the final report.

I call on the representative of the United States.

Mr. BRAIBANTI (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to make some comments at this point regarding the principles on nuclear-power sources.

We appreciate the efforts of the Committee on this complex technical subject, and in particular the effort to deal with United States concerns with respect to technical validity. We believe these efforts have led to much common ground.

As members of the Committee know, on several particular points it remains our view that the draft does not yet provide the clarity and technical validity necessary as a basis for decision-making in this area. The United States has an approach on these particular points that it considers to be technically clearer and more valid, and has a demonstrated history of safe and successful application of nuclear power in space. We will continue to apply that approach.

We call the Committee's attention to Principle 11, which calls for review and revision within two years, and we note that this will be necessary.

In view of the points I have just made, in view of the non-binding nature of these principles and in view of the importance of continued Committee operation in a consensus mode, the United States does not object to the proposed action on the principles on nuclear-power sources.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to ask at this stage that other Committee members wishing to make statements on this matter wait until after we have concluded consideration of this subject.

I now return to paragraph 6 bis. Does the Committee wish to adopt this paragraph?

Paragraph 6 bis was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up document A/AC.105/L.192/Add.2, as a whole, paragraphs 1 to 26. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 1 to 26?

Paragraphs 1 to 26 were adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus adopted the portion of its report contained in document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.2. We now turn to document A/AC.105/L.196/Add.3. Let us first take up Section D, paragraphs 1 to 7. Does the Committee wish to adopt Section D?

Section D was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider Section E, paragraphs 8 and 9. Does the Committee wish to adopt Section E?

Section E was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Next, we shall consider Section F, entitled "Future Work".

I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to draw the attention of the Committee to paragraph 13, the recommendation that the Legal Subcommittee rotate the order of consideration of its substantive items every year. Since this recommendation was made, we have come full circle in rotating the items; a new cycle will therefore begin in 1993, and the first agenda item to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee in 1993 will be nuclear-power sources. The second item will be the delimitation of outer space, and the third will be benefits derived from outer space. In paragraph 12, therefore, paragraph C will become paragraph A, paragraph A will become paragraph B, and paragraph B will become paragraph C. The 1993 Legal Subcommittee agenda will be prepared in that order.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section F was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now consider Section G. Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section G was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Finally, we turn to Section H. Does the Committee wish to adopt that Section?

Section H was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up, as a whole, the Committee's draft report on its work at the thirty-fifth session. May I take it that the Committee adopts the draft report, as a whole?

The draft report, as a whole, was adopted.

CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

Mr. TETU (Canada) (interpretation from French): My delegation welcomes, with relief and joy, the unanimous agreement of the Committee to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the principles on nuclear power sources in outer space. We wish in particular to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your tireless efforts in arriving at this felicitous compromise. Thirteen years of hard work by all delegations have made this result possible. We also wish to underscore the cooperation of all delegations, in particular that of the German delegation, which joined my delegation in preparing the many revisions that led to this positive outcome. Of course, some, if not all, States Members of the Committee at times encountered certain problems with some of the provisions contained in this set of principles, and we wish to thank all members for having displayed a spirit of compromise by going along with the text that you, Sir, submitted to us.

Mr. TELLES RIBEIRO (Brazil): Allow me to make some brief final remarks concerning the work of the thirty-fifth session of the Committee, which is about to end. My delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the results of this session. As the previous speaker pointed out, thanks to the sincere and constructive efforts of all delegations concerned, we were able to finalize the draft set of principles on nuclear power sources (NPS). It will now be incumbent on the General Assembly to take final action on the text contained in our report, and we expect that the set of principles will then be formally enshrined as another substantive contribution by our Committee to the progressive development of international space law.

At this juncture, my delegation would like to place on record its position concerning the draft set of principles on NPS we are sending to the General Assembly.

First, we believe that the text embodies an equal distribution of discontent, reflecting a delicate balance of expectations and frustrations on the part of each and every delegation. No single delegation should be considered the winner or loser in the negotiations but, rather, the international community as a whole should be seen as the beneficiary of the final results.

Secondly, the text represents a global package achievable at this point in time, taking into account all the relevant circumstances and considerations. No single part of it can be considered in isolation without jeopardizing the whole structure thus far so painstakingly negotiated. Any future revision of the text should take into account evolving new realities, and therefore any principle could be re-opened for negotiation in the future.

(Mr. Telles Ribeiro, Brazil)

Thirdly, it is my delegation's understanding that the text essentially reflects the agreement achieved in Geneva at the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee. As the consultations conducted on that occasion as well as the results reflected in the non-papers presented by the Chairman of the Working Group were both in English, it is the position of my delegation that the English text represents the authentic and authoritative reflection of the understandings finally agreed.

(Mr. Telles Ribeiro, Brazil)

Therefore, in any interpretation of the final text, my delegation holds that the source for clarification on any doubt, imprecision, or uncertainty of a substantive nature is contained in the report of the thirty-first session of the Legal Subcommittee.

Finally, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for your untiring dedication, Mr. Chairman, in pursuit of that elusive balance between satisfaction and frustration that made possible a successful conclusion of our work. Of course, I extend all my congratulations to the representatives present here who took part in this magnificent effort.

Mr. HERNANDEZ-BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The Mexican delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at the agreement reached enabling us today to adopt as a package the principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In spite of its limited scope, the set of principles will serve as a starting-point for the future elaboration of more complete and effective rules in this respect. For Mexico, therefore, the adoption of the principles is a positive step forward and one that will be highly useful, since it affords us an excellent opportunity for this Committee to make its work more productive.

Lastly, we would like to state for the record our thanks to the delegations of Canada and Germany, which for so many years have striven to ensure the international community an instrument allowing the regulation of the use of nuclear power in outer space safely and for peaceful purposes. Similarly, we would like to thank you, Ambassador Hohenfellner, for the intelligent and conciliatory way in which you have guided our work and for the positive efforts you have made to achieve the adoption of these principles. We know that your tireless efforts as Chairman of this Committee will bring the Committee further and ever more productive results in the future.

Mr. HIENSCH (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation would also like to join in the general expression of satisfaction and joy now that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has reached a consensus on a set of draft principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. I would like to thank you, Sir, for the leadership you have demonstrated by presenting us with your Chairman's draft text. We would also like to thank the delegations of Canada and Germany for their great efforts and the substantial work they have done on the principles.

But also, and perhaps in particular, I would like to thank and express our gratitude to those delegations that, despite serious concerns and reservations on the principles, are joining in the consensus today. To those delegations, I can say that the Netherlands delegation will constructively and positively participate in the review and revision process that will be undertaken in this Committee within two years.

The success of this session of the Committee should serve as an important and solid foundation for its future work. In this respect, I would like to express the hope that this Committee and its Subcommittees will take a serious look into their work programmes and work procedures.

Mr. MALLIAS (Greece): I would like to associate myself with previous speakers in praising you, Sir, and the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat for the outstanding way they helped in the work of this session of the Committee - and they did bring about success in its work.

The Greek delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the members of the Committee for their positive reaction to our offer to host a Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for our area, as is reflected in paragraph 15 of the report. Indeed, following the joint British-Austrian

(Mr. Mallias, Greece)

proposal, we feel that this Committee has a tremendous task to accomplish in implementing the relevant recommendations of the Rio Conference.

The Permanent Representative of Greece, in his statement of 17 June, indeed hinted at some of the problems that are very particular to our area. Greece will spare no effort in working closely, bilaterally and with those agencies interested in being involved, and we are hopeful that this project will meet with the interest and response to the concerns not only of the members of the Committee but also of United Nations Members that are not yet members of the Committee.

Mr. FULDA (Germany): The general sentiment of relief, satisfaction and joy prevailing this morning in this Committee is proof of the fact that all delegations are convinced that we have come a long way from the very beginning of the discussion in this Committee to the success we have achieved today. This success would not have been achieved without the efforts you, Sir, deployed a year ago and now again during the two weeks of our session. I would extend our thanks to you personally and of course to your predecessors and colleagues in the Subcommittees who have so strongly contributed to this outcome.

I would take this opportunity to extend our particular personal and very friendly thanks to the Canadian delegation and of course to my friend Richard Têtu. He will soon be leaving New York, and I feel that he is indeed returning home carrying one of the greatest successes of his diplomatic career, and on that I would like to congratulate him personally.

Of course, I do commend the efforts deployed by the United States delegation during the past days. I am convinced that we have achieved a

(Mr. Fulda, Germany)

result that is in our common interest. We do share the view expressed by the American delegation that the text we have adopted now is not a binding one. But it is a common point of reference. I stress again that we are prepared to discuss all alternative proposals in the Working Groups of the Subcommittees and here in the Committee. But we should not underestimate the importance of the text that is on the table now.

(Mr. Fulda, Germany)

All alternatives must be checked against the text we have approved today. Therefore, this is a day of success not only for the Committee, which has proved its capacity to work constructively and the validity of the principle of consensus, but for the United Nations in general.

This is the greatest day in the Committee's work for a decade.

Mr. BOYER (France)(interpretation from French): The coat of arms of the school of political science that I attended in Paris bears the image of the lion and the fox, symbolizing courage and prudence. I wish that I had it here to give you, Mr. Chairman, this symbol so dear to generations of students, because you had the courage to propose every possible compromise and the prudence not to propose impossible compromises. And you won. We are all very happy about that.

I should like first to thank the delegation of the United States, because we needed the consensus and we know that it was difficult. The French delegation is particularly grateful to the American delegation for all the work it did to explain to its Government the importance of what was at stake and the importance of our Committee's future work.

I should like secondly to thank the Canadian delegation and personally to thank its Head. We know that Canada had every reason to secure what we attained today. It worked with perseverance and diplomacy, and always with good humour and kindness.

I also thank our neighbour in this Chamber, the German delegation, which worked steadily and dedicatedly with the Canadian delegation.

Finally, I thank the delegation of Brazil, with which we had many discussions, now satisfactorily ended. Here I should like to introduce a small clarification, if the Brazilian delegation will permit me. The French delegation has joined the consensus today on the text annexed to the report.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

It has never had the opportunity to give its agreement to the text attached to the report of Ambassador Cede. That is an important distinction.

This is a happy day for the French delegation, especially because the happiness is generally shared.

Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia): I speak at this point in my national capacity as the Australian representative; Australia will later be paying tribute to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Australia warmly welcomes today's developments. We share the general joy in the Chamber. The adoption of the principles on nuclear power sources (NPS) has been an Australian objective for many years. We pay tribute to those delegations that have played a key role in the negotiations, and we echo those who have already paid tribute to the delegations of Canada, Germany and the United States for the work they did in their inter-agency consultative process.

We thank all delegations for the spirit of consensus and compromise they have shown. Leadership is often shown best in compromise. What has been proved today is that the Committee's consensus approach has worked.

Above all, we should like to express our thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for the leadership you have given us. Without the bold steps you have taken and the active work done by you and your delegation, we could not have reached the present point.

We believe that the principles on NPS as adopted enhance safety in outer space and that future generations will thank us for that. At the same time, we recognize the need for continuing review and possible revision, and we support that.

(Mr. Neuhaus, Australia)

We now have a solid basis for future work, not only on NPS, but on the other matters that we need to address in the Committee. We have strengthened the Committee and the multilateral approach to space through the developments today.

There are an increasing number of countries joining the pioneers - the United States and Russia - in outer space. There is the European Space Agency, there is China, and countries like Australia and developing countries are also participating in outer space.

We have from time to time offered classical allusions. We have offered the image of Tantalus seeking his objectives without success. We have talked of Pandora's box of problems. Now let me offer the picture of Mercury flying free in space, making it work for him. May we continue to make space work for the benefit of humanity and in enhancing the environment. We believe that by what we have done today we have taken a great step along that road.

The CHAIRMAN: There is an active and creative competition between the very pertinent pictures painted by the delegations of Brazil and Australia. Both delegations have clearly pointed out with very concrete pictures where we are.

Mr. MAYORSKI (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): We too should like to express our deep satisfaction at the results achieved at this session of the Committee you chair, Sir. We are certain that this joy and satisfaction are shared by our colleagues from the delegations of the countries of Eastern Europe.

We agree with those delegations that have expressed gratitude to the delegations of Canada and Germany for their tireless efforts in moving forward the very idea of drafting legal principles governing the use of nuclear power

(Mr. Mayorski, Russian Federation)

sources (NPS) in outer space. To those two delegations we could rightly add, especially in view of recent events, the delegation of France, because it was also a significant driving force in our common work.

We agree with the delegations that have pointed out that clearly the success which we have achieved today was guaranteed by the work done this year in Geneva, and we ask you, Sir, to convey our deep gratitude to Ambassador Franz Cede, our friend, who did a huge amount of work in Geneva. Clearly, we have every reason to thank his successor, or the temporary Chairman of the Working Group, Ambassador Freudenschuss.

To avoid speaking a second time, I think I should at this stage point out your personal contribution, Mr. Chairman, to the achievement of this happy result. Your outstanding leadership of the Committee at this session did a great deal to help all of us to say that fortunately the Committee is again on the rise and that there is a rebirth of hope for future fruitful work, not only on the question of NPS in outer space but on other questions.

(Mr. Mayorski, Russian Federation)

Thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and your courage and expertise, the members of the Committee have managed to prove to each other that we are capable of resolving issues, however difficult, by consensus, and we agree with those delegations which welcomed what the delegation of the United States said in this regard.

As this may be the last session in which I participate, I should like to say, Mr. Chairman, that it has been a great pleasure to work with you for all these years and that I am proud of our sincere friendship.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank my very good friend, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation; I do not accept his warning that he might not be present at future meetings of the Committee because this is a concession the Chairman of this Committee cannot make at this stage to the Russian Federation.

I note that you promoted the representative of Austria to the rank of Ambassador as a token of your generosity; there is, to be sure, a man in this room who appreciates that very much, that is, my colleague from Austria, and you can imagine the difficulties I shall have to face on my return to my office after this meeting.

Mr. MAYORSKI (Russian Federation) (interpretation from Russian): The word I said in Russian was poslannik, which can be translated into English as "minister" and not "ambassador". If this means a promotion, I am very glad.

The CHAIRMAN: I think there was some assistance from the interpreter, so the Committee can see just how many friends the Austrian representative has.

Ms. LOSTY (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom shares the very warm sentiments of our colleagues in expressing satisfaction at the final consensus regarding the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

We should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your untiring efforts and commitment. These were an inspiration to all representatives at a time when, perhaps, our own spirits were flagging.

We also recognize, with gratitude, the patient and ceaseless efforts of our colleagues from Canada and Germany, as well as the efforts of the members of the United States delegation in working towards what was not an easy compromise.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for all the help and support she has given us in our work.

Mr. UEKI (Japan): Japan is very pleased to see a consensus achieved on the Chairman's text, and shares the joy in this Committee. Japan wishes to convey its gratitude, particularly to you, Mr. Chairman, for your untiring efforts in producing the text; that text represents the result of long labours and negotiations, and contains a number of concessions and compromises by all sides. Therefore, Japan associates itself with the call expressed by many delegations for the earliest possible conclusion of this issue, and considers that the time is ripe for achieving consensus on the principles for the use of nuclear power sources.

At the same time, Japan considers it essential to achieve a consensus on these principles if they are to be meaningful and adhered to by all States. Therefore, Japan welcomes and appreciates the endorsement by the United States of the Chairman's text; the United States should be commended for the serious efforts it has made in arriving at a text that could be agreed upon.

(Mr. Ueki, Japan)

Japan also appreciates the valuable contributions of many delegations towards making consensus possible.

At this session, we have finally come out of the tunnel on the matter of the principles for the use of nuclear power sources. We certainly will have more work to do on this issue in order to keep up with rapidly advancing technology. The spirit of cooperation exhibited by all delegations should continue in the future work of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

Mr. YIN Yubiao (China) (interpretation from Chinese): First, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for successfully conducting this session of the Committee.

With regard to the consensus achieved on the principles relevant to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, the Chinese delegation expresses its satisfaction. In this connection, we also thank you, Sir, for the personal efforts you have made in your capacity as Chairman. Our thanks also go to the Canadian and German delegations, as well as to other delegations which have made untiring efforts over the past years.

We are very happy to see that, in the process of achieving consensus, all delegations have demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and of compromise, and a high sense of responsibility. The set of principles on which we have achieved consensus is not perfect. However, it will be very important to the protection of the Earth's environment.

We are convinced that, under the able guidance of the Chairman, all delegations will, in the same spirit, continue to make fresh progress in the work of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Chile, to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): After some quick informal consultations in my Group, there are two things that I can report: firstly, that I have had the privilege of being named informal - although perhaps a little more than informal - representative of that Group to address the Committee on this occasion; secondly, that, as a result of these consultations, which required no debate of any kind, we all wish to associate ourselves very enthusiastically with the words of praise that have been addressed to the Chairman, the Secretariat and the delegations of Canada and Germany; we also join in commending the efforts of the United States delegation and, indeed, of all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the adoption of a set of principles on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

Unfortunately, as representative of a developing country, I cannot give you an award. What we wish is just that our words of praise and satisfaction concerning the issue of nuclear power sources that we have expressed should be duly noted by you, Mr. Chairman, and, we hope, by all delegations, particularly those of Canada and Germany.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

In addition to the fact that we have passed a milestone by adopting this draft set of principles, there have also been other positive elements at the session. They have gone unmentioned - or have been mentioned only indirectly or tacitly. The most important was the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed, which can influence the discussion of other agenda items.

I would recall in particular the constructive efforts made by the delegation of Colombia with regard to the geostationary orbit, which have created important possibilities for future negotiation on that subject, one that remains fully valid - as does the proposal with regard to definition and delimitation put forward by the delegation of the Russian Federation. In that connection, I would express the hope that we may continue to enjoy the presence here of our friend Ambassador Boris Mayorski.

We also believe that within the Legal Subcommittee there is steady and clear indication of the need to provide a more precise and better defined legal framework for the subject of the spin-off benefits of outer space, and there should be a close linkage of the subject in the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Furthermore, with regard to our future work, we attached importance to the proposal made today by the delegation of the United Kingdom on a subject we deem very valid and important, namely, that we must continue to work on the important agreements reached at the recent Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development. The Committee does indeed have an active role to play in that field.

Lastly, on behalf of all my colleagues on the Committee who are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States I should like to say how proud we feel of our contribution, together with other Groups, to all the Committee's work, and in particular to that body with which I am more

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

familiar, the Legal Subcommittee. I should like to relate a brief anecdote. At the Legal Subcommittee session at Geneva in 1983 a very early document on nuclear power sources was submitted. That paper was sponsored by the delegation of Argentina and my own. Ecuador, Mexico and all the other members of the Group have also made consistent efforts for international cooperation - the general standard of this Committee - to continue to guide our work.

In closing, let me say that while we attach the utmost importance to the adoption of the set of draft principles relevant to nuclear power sources in outer space, we also believe that the emergent opportunities for the solution of other important problems of great interest to the developing countries are extremely relevant. In this connection we reiterate our commitment to and interest in continuing to work and cooperate to see that future legal instruments may be elaborated on those questions as well.

Mr. RAO (India): Before speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, I should like, on behalf of my own delegation, to thank the key players who have made the consensus agreement on the draft principles on nuclear power sources possible, the delegations of Canada, France, Germany, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. In particular, congratulations go to the delegation of the United States, for it has truly demonstrated its commitment to a prompt completion of those draft principles. As that delegation has said, certain improvements remain necessary to enhance the utility of those draft principles, improvements in their scientific and technical underpinnings, and we for our part would assure them that we will work very closely with them in trying to see that those draft principles are improved, especially from the technical point of view.

(Mr. Rao, India)

Special mention should also be made of Brazil, for it was that country's delegation that brought out the fact that the document represents an equal distribution of discontent and that as far as the document is concerned, all have reached the bottom line. I thank that that contribution made a lot of difference in bringing all of us to agree and to compromise on the Chairman's paper. I am sure that any improvement that will be made on the draft principles will be better than the bottom line that the paper represents. Along with other delegations - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and so on - we had our own points to make with regard to the draft principles, but in the spirit of compromise and consensus we have now reached a conclusion on the subject of nuclear power sources.

In particular, you, Mr. Chairman, submitted a paper that really played a key role in achieving a consensus. Our colleagues Mr. Richard Têtu of Canada, Mr. Fulda of Germany and Mr. Boyer of France also provided, as it were, parental guidance to many other delegations here in reaching consensus and played a very key role in that regard. On behalf of the Indian delegation, I should like to thank them.

We should also like to thank the Chairmen of the Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees and their Working Groups, for the major role they played in bringing the work on nuclear power sources to an early conclusion, as well as our colleague from Austria. India believes that International Space Year was a major event in space. In particular we consider that the conclusion of agreement on draft principles with regard to nuclear power sources in outer space is a major element of International Space Year and a major event. It restores confidence among all of us that the Committee on the

(Mr. Rao, India)

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has a true role to play in promoting international cooperation in outer space. It restores our confidence that we can look forward to a greater role by the Committee in promoting international cooperation.

On behalf of Group of Asian States, I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for achieving consensus on the question of nuclear power sources as well as for the great amount of important work that has been done in providing the Committee with a basis for its future work. I cannot now go into details with regard to all of it, but I can tell you that at the present session thoroughly important elements of future work were laid out, and we the Asian countries look forward very keenly to working closely with you and the Committee to further progress in our efforts to make international cooperation in outer space a reality.

Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia): On behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, over which Australia is privileged to chair this month, I should like to pay a tribute to you, Mr. Chairman. This has indeed been an outstanding result, a tribute to outstanding chairmanship and the major contribution to International Space Year. I should also like to thank the Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Jasentuliyana, and all of the Secretariat staff - those who have provided the conference services, the interpreters and the many others who have worked so hard to make this session a success. We thank them for their patience and for their hard work.

Finally, I should like to pay a tribute to all fellow delegations here for their cooperative spirit. This bodes well, not only for the future of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space but for the future of humanity's cooperation in outer space.

Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria): In view of the lateness of the hour, I am afraid my friends the interpreters will demote me if I prolong this meeting much further. But I just want to add my voice to those who have emphasized the importance of today's agreement, an agreement that would not have been possible without Canada and Germany in the first instance. But in the final analysis it would also not have been possible without the efforts of the members of the United States delegation present here today.

It is also a success for all of us, because we have all shown flexibility and an ability to compromise. That is the kind of spirit that in the past has made significant achievements possible.

I think today's agreement is a long-needed shot in the arm for this Committee that I hope will prove to be a tonic for our work in other areas in the future.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone for the kind words they addressed during the past two weeks to Austrian delegations past and present; I shall not fail to convey them to my colleagues Mr. Cede and Mr. Winkler.

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: My concluding remarks will be brief, because the hour is sufficiently advanced; I apologize to our colleagues the translators, the interpreters and the verbatim reporters.

I should like to say in conclusion that I very much appreciated the spirit of cooperation that has continued to prevail since our last session, in Graz. I shall not only turn to the subject that dominated today's meeting, but also want to express my deep gratitude to the Latin American delegations and specifically also to the representative of Colombia, for having participated so actively in our work on a subject that is so extremely

(The Chairman)

difficult, that of the geostationary orbit. I think what our colleague from Colombia said to us during all our deliberations was very important.

In that context I should like, of course, to thank all the other Latin American countries, which always try to participate so actively in the Committee's substantial and meaningful discussions.

At this stage I should like to say that our other colleagues from the third world - Africa and Asia - who are so close to my heart in the sense that I have been working with them for such a long time, have shown an enormous spirit of cooperation in this context. I think the discussions concerning all other items, in addition to nuclear power sources, have been important; we should be very sensitive to the voices of our colleagues from the developing countries. The voice of the third world is a voice to which we should listen very carefully.

Equally, I am very grateful to delegations from the Eastern European countries and to new observers, such as the delegation of Kazakhstan, which spoke for the first time in this Committee and told us of important results of cooperation in the field of outer space.

I come now to what so many delegations have called the important issue of nuclear power sources. I want to say, without any exaggeration, that this was certainly a historic moment in the work of the Committee. I am sober-minded enough to say that I am well aware of all the problems and complexities of this issue, but want also to say at this stage that the main thing we achieved today was to preserve the spirit of cooperation. This is an ongoing exercise; we must be aware that the matter of nuclear power sources constitutes an issue

(The Chairman)

that is so directly related to further developments in technology and in the use of outer space techniques that we shall have to remain closely in touch with it for the future. It is, as my colleague from the United Kingdom said on another occasion, a rolling ball.

Nevertheless, I would like to say at this stage that the main thing we have achieved is the enormous sense of responsibility that all delegations have shown. I heard the enormously kind words addressed to the Chairman, but I can say in all modesty that this was the work of you members, not the work of the Chairman. The Chairman is in a certain sense only the summary, the essence of what you are doing. Therefore I should like to express my gratitude to you all. I want to thank you for what you have done, and that includes all delegations.

I should like to say in this context that I specifically appreciated the role played by our colleagues from the United States of America. They had enormously difficult moments in so far as the dilemma posed by the problems that are created clearly placed a very heavy responsibility on that delegation. I want to thank them because I had a sense of the pulse of the opinion-building process and of the kind of cooperation they showed during our session. This shows that the Committee is on the right track.

At this stage I should like very, very cordially to thank our dear colleague from Canada, because he was at the very origin of the matter, his country having beeen a victim of this problem. Together with the delegations of Germany and France, he carried out an enormous task. But I do not want to exclude the many other delegations, specifically from the third world, that took a very active part in these discussions.

(The Chairman)

I should like also specifically to thank my friend Ambassador Boris Mayorski from the Russian Federation, who for years has been witness to the enormous complexity of these problems. The Russian Federation shares technology on nuclear power sources with the United States of America, and I know this process was not easy for its delegation.

I think the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed augurs well for the future of this Committee, and therefore I thank you all.

In that context I should like also to express my deep gratitude to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, and to all those who work with him. I should like to thank specifically Mr. Abiodun, who has been working under enormous difficulties as far as finances are concerned in the Space Applications Programme. He has shown a high degree of creativity in bringing together some marvelous projects, including in the context of the International Space Year; we must appreciate his work, specifically in this final stage.

Our Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Munteanu, who has had to return to his other tasks in Washington, was very helpful to me.

Last but not least, we have a new Rapporteur, who has taken on an enormous task. In the first stage of his work - I may call it a début - Mr. Fujita has already shown leadership, for I would like to say that the role of Rapporteur in this Committee is a very difficult one. The work demands creativity and an enormous sense of tact and sensitivity vis-à-vis the issues.

(The Chairman)

My thanks go, of course, to the translators, who have carried out an enormous task, and to all the other Secretariat staff members who have provided us, in time, with our documents.

Turning to the verbatim reporters - we know each other very well from other exercises, in the Security Council - I would like to thank them sincerely. This is no empty phrase. I know how much they do for our work and how much they contributed to the achievements of this session.

I think I am coming to the end. I apologize for the delay in our work. I wish you, dear colleagues, a very happy return to your home countries, if you are going back to your capitals. Those who stay with me will continue the work; I am already looking forward eagerly to our next meetings of our subsidiary bodies and our main body, which are so dear to us.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN: I delcare closed the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.